

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 6

DATE 2/4/09

BILL NO. SB236

**Schindler, Pam**

SB236

**From:** Sharpjfa@aol.com**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2009 11:21 AM**Subject:** Killing equals Killing: The Amoral Confusion of death penalty opponents Montana**To:** Governor Brian Schweitzer, Montana Legislators, County Attorneys and media throughout the state**From:** Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters**Killing equals Killing: The Amoral Confusion of death penalty opponents  
Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters, contact info below****There is a very common anti death penalty slogan:****"Why do we kill people to show that killing people is wrong?"****We don't. Even with no sanction, most folks know that committing murder is wrong.****We execute guilty murderers who have murdered innocent people.****The difference between crime and punishment, guilty murderers and their innocent victims is very clear to most.****The moral confusion exists when people blindly accept the amoral or immoral position that all killing is equal.****The anti death penalty folks are looking at an act -- "killing" -- and saying all killings are the same. Only an amoral person would equate acts, without considering the purpose behind them.****For those, like some anti death penalty folks, who believe all killing is morally equivalent, they would equate the slaughter of 6 million innocent Jews and 6-7 million additional innocents with the execution of those guilty murderers committing that slaughter. They would also equate the rape and murder of children with the execution of the rapist/murderer.****This is what the anti death penalty folks do, morally equate killing (murder) with the punishment for that murder, another killing (execution).****For such anti death penalty folks to be consistent, they must also equate holding people against their will (illegal kidnapping) with the sanction for it, the holding people against their will (legal incarceration) or the taking money away from people (illegal robbery) with a sanction for that, taking money away from people (legal restitution).****Most folks understand the moral differences.****Some anti death penalty folks are either incapable of knowing the moral differences between crime and punishment, guilty criminals and their innocent victims, or they are knowingly using a dishonest slogan by equating killing (murder) with killing (execution).****copyright 2000-2009 Dudley Sharp: Permission for distribution of this document, in whole or in part, is approved with proper attribution.****Pro death penalty sites****[homicidesurvivors.com/categories/Dudley%20Sharp%20-%20Justice%20Matters.aspx](http://homicidesurvivors.com/categories/Dudley%20Sharp%20-%20Justice%20Matters.aspx)**

[www.dpinfo.com](http://www.dpinfo.com)  
[www.cjlf.org/deathpenalty/DPinformation.htm](http://www.cjlf.org/deathpenalty/DPinformation.htm)  
[www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/links/dplinks.htm](http://www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/links/dplinks.htm)  
[www.coastda.com/archives.html](http://www.coastda.com/archives.html) see Death Penalty  
[www.lexingtonprosecutor.com/death\\_penalty\\_debate.htm](http://www.lexingtonprosecutor.com/death_penalty_debate.htm)  
[www.prodeathpenalty.com](http://www.prodeathpenalty.com)  
<http://yesdeathpenalty.googlepages.com/home2> (Sweden)  
[www.wesleylowe.com/cp.html](http://www.wesleylowe.com/cp.html)

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**Schindler, Pam**

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**From:** Sharpjfa@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2009 11:19 AM  
**Subject:** Death Penalty and Deterrence: Let's be clear Montana

**To:** Governor Brian Schweitzer, Montana Legislators, County Attorneys and media throughout the state

**From:** Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters

**Death Penalty and Deterrence: Let's be clear  
by Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters, 0104**

In their story, "States With No Death Penalty Share Lower Homicide Rates", The New York Times did their best to illustrate that the death penalty was not a deterrent, by showing that the average murder rate in death penalty states was higher than the average rate in non death penalty states and, it is. (1)

What the Times failed to observe is that their own study confirmed that you can't simply compare those averages to make that determination regarding deterrence.

As one observer stated: "The Times story does nothing more than repeat the dumbest of all dumb mistakes — taking the murder rate in a traditionally high-homicide state with capital punishment (like Texas) and comparing it to a traditionally low-homicide state with no death penalty (like North Dakota) and concluding that the death penalty doesn't work at all. Even this comparison doesn't work so well. The Times own graph shows Texas, where murder rates were 40 percent above Michigan's in 1991, has now fallen below Michigan . . .". (2)

Within the Times article, Michigan Governor John Engler states, "I think Michigan made a wise decision 150 years ago," referring to the state's abolition of the death penalty in 1846. "We're pretty proud of the fact that we don't have the death penalty." (3)

Even though easily observed on the Times' own graphics, they failed to mention the obvious. Michigan's murder rate is near or above that of 31 of the US's 38 death penalty states. And then, it should be recognized that Washington, DC (not found within the Times study) and Detroit, Michigan, two non death penalty jurisdictions, have been perennial leaders in murder and violent crime rates for the past 30 years. Delaware, a jurisdiction similar in size to them, leads the nation in executions per murder, but has significantly lower rates of murders and violent crime than do either DC or Detroit, during that same period.

Obviously, the Times study and any other simple comparison of jurisdictions with and without the death penalty, means little, with regard to deterrence.

Also revealed within the Times study, but not pointed out by them, is: "One-third of the nation's executions take place in Texas—and the steepest decline in homicides has occurred in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas, which together account for nearly half the nation's executions." (4)

And, the Times also failed to mention that the major US jurisdiction with the most executions is Harris County (Houston, Texas), which has seen a 73% decrease in murder rates since resuming executions in 1982 -- possibly the largest reduction for a major metropolitan area since that time.

Also omitted from the Times review, although they had the data, is that during a virtual cessation of executions, from 1966-1980, that murders more than doubled in the US. Any other

rise and fall in murders, after that time, has been only a fraction of that change, indicating a strong and direct correlation between the lack of executions and the dramatic increase in murders, if that is specifically what you are looking for.

If deterrence was measured by direct correlation's between execution, or the lack thereof, and murder rates, as implied by the Times article, and as wrongly assumed by those blindly accepting that model, then there would be no debate, only more confusion. Which may have been the Times' goal.

Let's take a look at the science.

Some non death penalty jurisdictions, such as South Africa and Mexico lead the world in murder and violent crime rates. But then some non death penalty jurisdictions, such as Sweden, have quite low rates. Then there are such death penalty jurisdictions as Japan and Singapore which have low rates of such crime. But then other death penalty jurisdictions, such as Rwanda and Louisiana, that have high rates.

To which an astute observer will respond: But socially, culturally, geographically, legally, historically and many other ways, all of those jurisdictions are very different. Exactly, a simple comparison of only execution rates and murder rates cannot tell the tale of deterrence. And within the US, between states, there exist many variables which will effect the rates of homicides.

See REVIEW, below

And, as so well illustrated by the Times graphics, a non death penalty state, such as Michigan has high murder rates and another non death penalty state, such as North Dakota, has low murder rates and then there are death penalty states, such as Louisiana, with high murder rates and death penalty states, such South Dakota, with low rates. Apparently, unbeknownst to the Times, but quite obvious to any neutral observer, there are other factors at play here, not just the presence or absence of the death penalty. Most thinking folks already knew that.

As Economics Professor Ehrlich stated in the Times piece and, as accepted by all knowledgeable parties, there are many factors involved in such evaluations. That is why there is a wide variation of crime rates both within and between some death penalty and non death penalty jurisdictions, and small variations within and between others. Any direct comparison of only execution rates and only murder rates, to determine deterrence, would reflect either ignorance or deception.

Ehrlich called the Times study "a throwback to the vintage 1960s statistical analyses done by criminologists who compared murder rates in neighboring states where capital punishment was either legal or illegal." "The statistics involved in such comparisons have long been recognized as devoid of scientific merit." He called the Times story a "one sided affair" devoid of merit. Most interesting is that Ehrlich was interviewed by the Time's writer, Fessenden, who asked Ehrlich to comment on the results before the story was published. Somehow Ehrlich's overwhelming criticisms were left out of the article.

Ehrlich also referred Fessenden to some professors who produced the recently released Emory study. Emory Economics department head, Prof. Deshbakhsh "says he was contacted by Fessenden, and he indicated to the Times reporter that the study suggested a very strong deterrent effect of capital punishment." Somehow, Fessenden's left that out of the Times story, as well. (5).

There is a constant within all jurisdictions -- negative consequences will always have an effect on behavior.

Maybe the Times will be a bit more thoughtful, next time.

REVIEW

**"The List: Murder Capitals of the World", 09/08, Foreign Policy Magazine  
Capital punishment (cp) or not (ncp)  
murder rates/100,000 population**

**4 out of the top 5 do not have the death penalty**

**1. Caracas (ncp), Venezuela 130-160**

**Bad policing.**

**2. New Orleans (cp), La, USA 69-95**

**Variable because of different counts in surging population. Drug related.**

**Nos 2 & 3 in US, Detroit (ncp), 46 and Baltimore (cp), 45.**

**3. Cape Town (ncp), South Africa 62**

**Most crimes with people who know each other.**

**4. Port Mores (ncp), Papua New Guinea 54**

**Chinese gangs, corrupt policing**

**5. Moscow (ncp), Russia 9.6**

**various**

**Of the Top 10 Countries With Lowest Murder Rates (1), 7 have the death penalty**

**Of the Top 10 Countries With Highest Murder Rates (2), 5 have the death penalty**

**Top 10 Countries With Lowest Murder Rates**

**Iceland 0.00 ncp**

**Senegal 0.33 ncp**

**Burkina Faso 0.38 cp**

**Cameroon 0.38 cp**

**Finland 0.71 ncp**

**Gambia 0.71 cp**

**Mali 0.71 cp**

**Saudi Arabia 0.71 cp**

**Mauritania 0.76 cp**

**Oman cp**

**Top 10 Countries With Highest Murder Rates**

**Honduras 154.02 ncp**

**South Africa 121.91 ncp**

**Swaziland 93.32 cp**

**Colombia 69.98 ncp**

**Lesotho 50.41 cp**

**Rwanda 45.08 ncp**

**Jamaica 37.21 cp**

**El. Salvador 36.88 cp**

**Venezuela 33.20 ncp**

**Bolivia 31.98 cp**

**(1) <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-top-ten/countries-with-lowest-murder-rates.html> no date**

**(2) <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-top-ten/countries-with-highest-murder-rates.html> no date**

**FOOTNOTES**

**1) "States With No Death Penalty Share Lower Homicide Rates", The New York Times 9/22/00 located at**

[www \(dot\) nytimes.com/2000/09/22/national/22STUD.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/22/national/22STUD.html) and [www \(dot\) nytimes.com/2000/09/22/national/22DEAT.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/22/national/22DEAT.html)

2) "Don't Know Much About Calculus: The (New York) Times flunks high-school math in death-penalty piece", William Tucker, National Review, 9/22/00, located at [www \(dot\) nationalreview.com/comment/comment092200c.shtml](http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/comment092200c.shtml)

3) *ibid*, see footnote 11

4) "The Death Penalty Saves Lives", AIM Report, August 2000, located at [www \(dot\) aim.org/publications/aim\\_report/2000/o8a.html](http://www.aim.org/publications/aim_report/2000/o8a.html)

5) "NEW YORK TIMES UNDER FIRE AGAIN", Accuracy in Media, 10/16/00, go to [www \(dot\) aim.org/](http://www.aim.org/)

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Houston, Texas

Mr. Sharp has appeared on ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN, C-SPAN, FOX, NBC, NPR, PBS , VOA and many other TV and radio networks, on such programs as Nightline, The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, The O'Reilly Factor, etc., has been quoted in newspapers throughout the world and is a published author.

A former opponent of capital punishment, he has written and granted interviews about, testified on and debated the subject of the death penalty, extensively and internationally.

Pro death penalty sites

[homicidesurvivors.com/categories/Dudley%20Sharp%20-%20Justice%20Matters.aspx](http://homicidesurvivors.com/categories/Dudley%20Sharp%20-%20Justice%20Matters.aspx)

[www.dpinfo.com](http://www.dpinfo.com)

[www.cjlf.org/deathpenalty/DPinformation.htm](http://www.cjlf.org/deathpenalty/DPinformation.htm)

[www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/links/dplinks.htm](http://www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/links/dplinks.htm)

[www.coastda.com/archives.html](http://www.coastda.com/archives.html)

[www.lexingtonprosecutor.com/death\\_penalty\\_debate.htm](http://www.lexingtonprosecutor.com/death_penalty_debate.htm)

[www.prodeathpenalty.com](http://www.prodeathpenalty.com)

[yesdeathpenalty.googlepages.com/home2](http://yesdeathpenalty.googlepages.com/home2) (Sweden)

[www.wesleylowe.com/cp.html](http://www.wesleylowe.com/cp.html)

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**Schindler, Pam**

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**From:** Sharpjfa@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2009 11:18 AM  
**Subject:** The Death Penalty: Neither Hatred nor Revenge Montana

**To: Governor Brian Schweitzer, Montana Legislators, County Attorneys and media throughout the state**

**From: Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters**

**The Death Penalty: Neither Hatred nor Revenge  
Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters, contact info below**

**Death penalty opponents say that the death penalty has a foundation in hatred and revenge. Such is a false claim.**

**A death sentence requires pre existing statutes, trial and appeals, considerations of guilt and due process, to name but a few. Revenge requires none of these and, in fact, does not even require guilt or a crime.**

**The criminal justice system goes out of its way to take hatred and revenge out of the process. That is why we have a system of pre existing laws and legal procedures that offer extreme protections to defendants and those convicted and which provide statutes and sanctions which existed prior to the crime.**

**It is also why those directly affected by the murder are not allowed to be fact finders in the case.**

**The reality is that the pre trial, trial, appellate and executive clemency/commutation processes offer much greater time and human resources to capital cases than they do to any other cases, meaning that the facts tell us that defendants and convicted murderers, subject to the death penalty, receive much greater care and concern than those not facing the death penalty - the opposite of a system marked with vengeance.**

**Calling executions a product of hatred and revenge is simply a way in which some death penalty opponents attempt to establish a sense of moral superiority. It can also be a transparent insult which results in additional hurt to those victim survivors who have already suffered so much and who believe that execution is the appropriate punishment for those who murdered their loved one(s).**

**Far from moral superiority, those who call capital punishment an expression of hatred and revenge are often exhibiting their contempt for those who believe differently than they do. Instead, they might reflect on why others believe it is a just and deserved sanction for the crimes committed.**

**The pro death penalty position is based upon those who find that punishment just and appropriate under specific circumstances.**

**Those opposed to execution cannot prove a foundation of hatred and revenge for the death penalty any more than they can for any other punishment sought within a system such as that observed within the US - unless such opponents find all punishments a product of hatred and revenge - an unreasonable, unfounded position**

**Far from hatred and revenge, the death penalty represents our greatest condemnation for a crime of unequalled horror and consequence. Lesser punishments may suffice under some circumstances. A death sentence for certain heinous crimes is given in those special**

circumstances when a jury finds such is more just than a lesser sentence.

Less justice is not what we need.

A thorough review of the criminal justice system will often beg this question: Why have we chosen to be so generous to murderers and so contemptuous of the human rights and suffering of the victims and future victims?

The punishment of death is, in no way, a balancing between harm and punishment, because the innocent murder victim did not deserve or earn their fate, whereas the murderer has earned their own, deserved punishment by the free will action of violating societies laws and an individuals life and, thereby, voluntarily subjecting themselves to that jurisdictions judgment.

#### WHAT OF MERCY?

From Quaker biblical scholar Dr. Gervas A. Carey " . . . the decree of Genesis 9:5-6 is equally enduring and cannot be separated from the other pledges and instructions of its immediate context, Genesis 8:20-9:17; . . . that is true unless specific Biblical authority can be cited for the deletion, of which there appears to be none. It seems strange that any opponents of capital punishment who professes to recognize the authority of the Bible either overlook or disregard the divine decree in this covenant with Noah; . . . capital punishment should be recognized . . . as the divinely instituted penalty for murder; The basis of this decree . . . is as enduring as God; . . . murder not only deprives a man of a portion of his earthly life . . . it is a further sin against him as a creature made in the image of God and against God Himself whose image the murderer does not respect." (p. 111-113) Carey agrees with Saints Augustine and Aquinas, that executions represent mercy to the wrongdoer: ". . . a secondary measure of the love of God may be said to appear. For capital punishment provides the murderer with incentive to repentance which the ordinary man does not have, that is a definite date on which he is to meet his God. It is as if God thus providentially granted him a special inducement to repentance out of consideration of the enormity of his crime . . . the law grants to the condemned an opportunity which he did not grant to his victim, the opportunity to prepare to meet his God. Even divine justice here may be said to be tempered with mercy." (p. 116). Prof. Carey was Professor of Bible and past President of George Fox College. This was a synopsis of his essay "A Bible Study", from Essays on the Death Penalty, T. Robert Ingram, ed., St. Thomas Press, Houston, 1963, 1992.

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Houston, Texas

Mr. Sharp has appeared on ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN, C-SPAN, FOX, NBC, NPR, PBS , VOA and many other TV and radio networks, on such programs as Nightline, The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, The O'Reilly Factor, etc., has been quoted in newspapers throughout the world and is a published author.

A former opponent of capital punishment, he has written and granted interviews about, testified on and debated the subject of the death penalty, extensively and internationally.

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[www.prodeathpenalty.com](http://www.prodeathpenalty.com)  
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**Schindler, Pam**

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**From:** Sharpjfa@aol.com

**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2009 11:07 AM

**Subject:** Catholic Scholars: Support for the Death Penalty Montana

**To:** Governor Brian Schweitzer, Montana Legislators, County Attorneys and media throughout the state

**From:** Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters

**Catholic Scholars: Support for the Death Penalty**  
Dudley Sharp, Justice Matters, contact info below

There are thoughtful writings on both sides of this debate, but the pro death penalty position is much stronger.

Recently deceased Avery Cardinal Dulles, in one of his final interviews, states that he thought the Church may return to a "more traditional posture" on the death penalty. "Recent popes, Dulles conceded, beginning with John XXIII, seem to have taken quasi-abolitionist positions on both matters. Yet used sparingly and with safeguards to protect the interests of justice, Dulles argued, both the death penalty and war have, over the centuries, been recognized by the church as legitimate, sometimes even obligatory, exercises of state power. The momentum of "internal solidification," he said, may lead to some reconsideration of these social teachings." ("An unpublished interview with Avery Dulles", All Things Catholic by John L. Allen, Jr., NCRcafe.org, Posted on Dec 19, 2008, at <http://ncrcafe.org/node/2340>)

Based upon the strength of the Catholic biblical, theological and traditional support for the death penalty as, partially, revealed, below, I think the Church will have to.

Even today, a Catholic in good standing can call for more executions, if their prudential judgements finds for that.

(1) "Capital Punishment: New Testament Teaching", 1998, Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., considered one of the most prominent Roman Catholic theologians of the 20th century. See bottom. [http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Sacred Scripture/Sacred Scripture 014.htm](http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Sacred%20Scripture/Sacred%20Scripture%20014.htm)

"There are certain moral norms that have always and everywhere been held by the successors of the Apostles in communion with the Bishop of Rome. Although never formally defined, they are irreversibly binding on the followers of Christ until the end of the world." "Such moral truths are the grave sinfulness of contraception and direct abortion. Such, too, is the Catholic doctrine which defends the imposition of the death penalty."

"Most of the Church's teaching, especially in the moral order, is infallible doctrine because it belongs to what we call her ordinary universal magisterium."

"Equally important is the Pope's (Pius XII) insistence that capital punishment is morally defensible in every age and culture of Christianity." " . . . the Church's teaching on 'the coercive power of legitimate human authority' is based on 'the sources of revelation and traditional doctrine.' It is wrong, therefore 'to say that these sources only contain ideas which are conditioned by historical circumstances.' On the contrary, they have 'a general and abiding validity.' (Acta Apostolicae Sedis, 1955, pp 81-2)."

about Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

<http://www.mariancatechist.com/html/general/stjohnhardon.htm>

<http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/archives.htm>  
<http://www.mariancatechist.com/html/general/fatherhardon.htm>  
<http://www.saintphilomena.com/newpage4.htm>  
<http://credo.stormloader.com/Saints/hardon.htm>

(2) "The Death Penalty", by Romano Amerio, a faithful Catholic Vatican insider, scholar, professor at the Academy of Lugano, consultant to the Preparatory Commission of Vatican II, and a peritus (expert theologian) at the Council.

<http://www.domid.blogspot.com/2007/05/amerio-on-capital-punishment.html>

"Amerio has the great gift of going to the heart of a subject in a few lines and very neatly distinguishes genuine Catholicism from imitations and aberrations." "What makes Amerio's analysis unique is that he restricts himself to official and semi-official pronouncements by popes, cardinals, bishops, episcopal conferences and articles in L'Osservatore Romano, from the time of Pope John XXIII to 1985 when the book was originally written." (1)

titled "Amerio on capital punishment", Chapter XXVI, 187. The death penalty, from the book Iota Unum, May 25, 2007

About Romano Amerio

<http://chiesa.espresso.repubblica.it/articolo/176565?eng=y>  
<http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2006/02/romano-amerio-and-pope-benedict.html>  
<http://www.latin-mass-society.org/2007/romanoamerio.html>  
<http://www.angeluspress.org/oscatolog/item/6700/iota-unum>

(3) "Christian Scholars & Saints: Support for the Death Penalty", at  
<http://www.homicidesurvivors.com/2006/10/12/catholic-and-other-christian-references-support-for-the-death-penalty.aspx>

(4) "Capital Punishment: A Catholic Perspective",  
 by Br. Augustine (Emmanuel Valenza)  
[http://www.sspix.org/against the sound bites/capital punishment.htm](http://www.sspix.org/against%20the%20sound%20bites/capital%20punishment.htm)

(5) "Capital Punishment: The Case for Justice", Prof. J. Budziszewski, First Things, August / September 2004 <http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles4/BudziszewskiPunishment.shtml>

(6) "The Death Penalty", by Solange Strong Hertz at  
<http://www.ourworld.compuserve.com/HOMEPAGES/REMNANT/death2.htm>

(7) "A Seamless Garment In a Sinful World" by John R. Connery, S. J., America, 7/14/84, p 5-8).

(8) "God's Justice and Ours" by US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, First Things, 5/2002  
[http://www.firstthings.com/article.php3?id\\_article=2022](http://www.firstthings.com/article.php3?id_article=2022)

(9) Forgotten Truths: "Is The Church Against Abortion and The Death Penalty"  
 by Luiz Sergio Solimeo, Crusade Magazine, p14-16, May/June 2007  
[http://www.tfp.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=957](http://www.tfp.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=957)

(10) "The Purpose of Punishment (in the Catholic tradition)",  
 by R. Michael Dunningan, J.D., J.C.L., CHRISTIFIDELIS, Vol.21, No.4, sept 14, 2003  
<http://www.st-joseph-foundation.org/newsletter/lead.php?document=2003/21-4>

(11) "MOST CATHOLICS OPPOSE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT?",  
KARL KEATING'S E-LETTER, Catholic Answers, March 2, 2004  
[http://www.catholic.com/newsletters/kke\\_040302.asp](http://www.catholic.com/newsletters/kke_040302.asp)

(12) "THOUGHTS ON THE BISHOPS' MEETING: NOWADAYS, VOTERS IGNORE BISHOPS",  
KARL KEATING'S E-LETTER, Catholic Answers,, Nov. 22, 2005  
[http://www.catholic.com/newsletters/kke\\_051122.asp](http://www.catholic.com/newsletters/kke_051122.asp)

Christian, non Catholic Scholars

(13) Chapter V: The Sanctity of Life, "Principles of Conduct: Aspects of Biblical Ethics" By John Murray  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=phoqAAaGMpUC&pg=PA107&lpg=PA114&ots=mFvByHqGSy&dq=Murray+%22It+is+the+sanctity+of+human+life+that+underlies+the+sixth+commandment.%22&ie=ISO-8859-1&output=html&sig=ACfU3U1bomdM3BfpNSXnhrwFYXaE\\_9Ij9A](http://books.google.com/books?id=phoqAAaGMpUC&pg=PA107&lpg=PA114&ots=mFvByHqGSy&dq=Murray+%22It+is+the+sanctity+of+human+life+that+underlies+the+sixth+commandment.%22&ie=ISO-8859-1&output=html&sig=ACfU3U1bomdM3BfpNSXnhrwFYXaE_9Ij9A)

(14) "Capital Punishment: What the Bible Says", Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Abingdon Press, 1987. The definitive biblical review of the death penalty.

(15) "Why I Support Capital Punishment", by Andrew Tallman  
sections 7-11 biblical review, sections 1-6 secular review  
<http://andrewtallmanshowarticles.blogspot.com/search?q=Capital+punishment>

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Religious positions in favor of capital punishment are neither necessary nor needed to justify that sanction. However, the biblical and theological record is very supportive of the death penalty.

Many of the current religious campaigns against the death penalty reflect a fairly standard anti death penalty message, routed in secular arguments. When they do address religious issues, they often neglect solid theological foundations, choosing, instead, select biblical sound bites which do not impact the solid basis of death penalty support.

Footnotes:

(1) Books: 'Iota Unum: A Study of Changes in the Catholic Church', by Romano Amerio, Fr Peter Joseph (reviewer)  
IOTA UNUM: A Study of Changes in the Catholic Church in the 20th Century  
by Romano Amerio (English translation by Fr John Parsons)  
(Sarto House, USA, 786 pp)  
Reprinted from AD2000 Vol 9 No 8 (September 1996), p. 14  
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70% of Catholics supported the death penalty as of May, 2005, Gallup Poll, Moral Values and Beliefs. The May 2-5, 2005 poll also found that 74% of Americans favor the death penalty for murderers, while 23% oppose.

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